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NTISSC
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

LOGGED [redacted]
7 MAY 19[illegible]

NTISSC-024-85
3 May 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS, NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY COMMITTEE

SUBJ: "National Policy On Application of Communications Security to U.S. Civil and Commercial Space Systems".

Please reference NTISSC memorandum, NTISSC 12-85, dated 27 March 1985, subject as above. Continuing negotiations between the NSA and the NASA regarding the protection of civil satellite systems intended exclusively for unclassified missions and the need to remove confusion industry is having with the terms "telemetry, tracking and control" and "mission data" has resulted in a change to the policy. NSA has redrafted the policy to clarify those areas of concern.

This memorandum forwards a revised copy of subject policy which is intended to be voted upon at the 10 May meeting of the NTISSC.

STAT

Executive Secretary

Encl:
a/s

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NTISS

DRAFT

NATIONAL POLICY

ON

APPLICATION OF COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY TO U.S. CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL SPACE SYSTEMS

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY COMMITTEE

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FOREWORD

The use of satellites for the transmission of U.S. Government and Government contractor telecommunications is expanding rapidly. The National Policy on application of Communications Security to U.S. Civil and Commercial Space Systems was developed by the National Telecommunicatons and Information Systems Security Committee (NTISSC) in recognition of a need to protect U.S. space systems.

It is a policy to protect both the relayed telecommunications transmitted over space system circuits, and the command/control uplink. Government or Government contractor use of civil space systems for telecommunications is limited to those protected by approved techniques. The Government shall encourage the similar protection by approved means of all commercial space systems.

This policy is effective immediately, and supersedes NCSC-10, "National Policy for Protection of U.S. National Security Related Information Transmitted Over Satellite Systems," dated 26 April 1982.

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NATIONAL POLICY
ON
APPLICATION OF COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY TO U.S. CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL SPACE SYSTEMS

SECTION I - POLICY

1. Government classified and Government or Government contractor national security related information transmitted over satellite circuits shall be protected by approved techniques from explolitation by unauthorized intercept.

2. Government or Government contractor use of U.S. civil (Government-owned but non-DoD) and commercial satellites launched five years from the date of this policy shall be limited to space systems using approved techniques necessary to protect the command/control uplink. Nothing in this policy shall preclude use of satellites that do not employ command/control uplink protection if those satellites are launched prior to or during the specified five-year period.

3. The need for and means to protect the command/control uplink associated with civil satellite systems, intended exclusively for unclassified missions, will be determined by the organization responsible for the satellite system in coordination with the National Security Agency.

SECTION II - EXCEPTIONS

4. Exceptions to this policy may be granted by the NTISSC in consultation with Federal departments and agencies, as well as the private sector.

SECTION III - DEFINITIONS

5. Space systems consist of the spacecraft or satellite, command ground station, data acquisition stations, telecommunications, and command/control uplink.

SECTION IV - HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

6. The Director, National Security Agency, in coordination with other departments or agencies as appropriate, shall assess space systems telecommunications, and command/control uplink functions to determine their vulnerability to unauthorized use and provide approved protection techniques and guidance.

7. Nothing in this policy shall relieve the heads of Federal departments and agencies of their authority and responsibility for executing other measures to assure the adequate protection of their telecommunications.

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